

*Please amend the Specification as follows.*

Replace paragraph [0004] with the following paragraph:

[0004] Each of French Patent No. 2,578,602, Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 8-253063 and U.S. Patent No. 6,312,053 discloses locking means for securing a seat back relative to a seat cushion. The conventional locking means for securing a seat back relative to a seat cushion comprises a ~~disk-like~~ disk-shaped housing, a ~~disk-like~~ disk-shaped cover plate, the ~~disk-like~~ disk-shaped cover plate having an annular wall and teeth around an inner periphery of the annular wall, the cover plate being rotatably received in the housing in a face to face relation, a plurality of locking gears radially arranged within an inner surface of the housing between the housing and the cover plate, the locking gears each having a toothed surface and being movable between a locked position and an unlocked position, the toothed surfaces of the locking gears being adapted to engage the teeth of the cover plate in the locked position to secure the seat back relative to the seat cushion, a cam for engagement with the locking gears and selectively moving the locking gears between the locked position and the unlocked position, the cam being arranged within the inner surface of the housing between the housing and cover plate and surrounded by the locking gears, a shaft to which the cam is mounted for rotation with the shaft, the shaft extending through the housing and the cover plate, and an operating lever mounted to the shaft for actuating the cam. In the conventional locking means, when a user operates the operating lever, the shaft and the cam are rotated, whereby the locking gears are disengaged from the teeth of the cover plate. In this condition, the seat back is allowed to be reclined relative to the seat cushion.

Replace paragraph [0012] with the following paragraph:

[0012] The first end portion of the second actuating shaft may have a round ~~bar-like~~ bar-shaped body. The spaced apart flange portions ~~projects~~ project radially from the round ~~bar-like~~ bar-shaped body. The first end portion of the second actuating shaft is received in the second end portion of the supporting shaft so that the round ~~bar~~ bar-shaped body and the spaced apart flat wall sections of the supporting shaft are ~~slide~~ slid relative to each other and the flange portions and the spaced apart circular arc-shaped wall sections are slid relative to each other, when one of the

supporting shaft and the second actuating shaft is rotated relative to the other of the supporting shaft and the second actuating shaft.

Replace paragraph [0014] with the following paragraph:

[0014] The first locking means may comprise a first ~~disk-like~~ disk-shaped housing mounted to a seat cushion frame for the seat cushion, a first ~~disk-like~~ disk-shaped cover plate received in the first housing in a face to face relation so as to be rotatable relative to the first housing, and mounted to a seat back frame for the seat back, first locking gear means arranged within an inner surface of the first housing between the first housing and the first cover plate, the first locking gear means being movable between a first locked position and a first unlocked position, first cooperating means on the first ~~disk-like~~ disk-shaped cover plate and the first locking gear means for securing the seat back relative to the seat cushion in the first locked position and a first cam for causing the first locking gear means to be moved between the first locked position and the first unlocked position. The first cam is mounted to the first actuating shaft for rotation therewith. The first cam is arranged within the first housing with the first actuating shaft of the first cam extending through the first housing and the first cover plate. The second locking means may comprise a second ~~disk-like~~ disk-shaped housing mounted to the seat cushion frame for the seat cushion, a second ~~disk-like~~ disk-shaped cover plate received in the second housing in a face to face relation so as to be rotatable relative to the second housing, and mounted to the seat back frame for the seat back, second locking gear means arranged within an inner surface of the second housing between the second housing and the second cover plate, the second locking gear means being movable between a second locked position and a second unlocked position, second cooperating means on the second ~~disk-like~~ disk-shaped cover plate and the second locking gear means for securing the seat back relative to the seat cushion in the second locked position, and a second cam for causing the second locking gear means to be moved between the second locked position and the second unlocked position, second cam being mounted to the second actuating shaft for rotation therewith, and the second cam being arranged within the second housing with the second actuating shaft of the second cam extending through the second housing and the second cover plate.

Replace paragraph [0039] with the following paragraph:

[0039] Referring to Fig. 3, the first locking means 1 comprises a substantially ~~disk-like~~ disk-shaped housing 10, a substantially ~~disk-like~~ disk-shaped cover plate 11, three locking gears 12, 13, 14, the actuating shaft 16, a cam 15 for causing the locking gears 12, 13, 14 to be displaced, the cam 15 being mounted to the actuating shaft 16 for rotation therewith, three spiral springs 17a, 17b, 17c, a guide plate 18 for inducting the locking gears 12, 13, 14, and a ~~ring-like~~ ring-shaped cover 19 for causing the housing 10 and the cover plate 11 to be combined with each other.

Replace paragraph [0042] with the following paragraph:

[0042] Referring to Fig. 5, the cover plate 11 comprises a circular plate portion 11a', an annular wall 11a standing up from a circular edge of the circular plate portion 11a' and having a circumferentially toothed surface 11b around an inner periphery of the annular wall 11a, a through-hole 11c formed in a central region of the circular plate portion 11a' for receiving the actuating shaft 16 of the cam 15, and spaced apart protrusions 11d, 11e, 11f, 11g, 11h, 11i protruding from an outer surface of the circular plate portion 11a'. The outer diameter of the annular wall 11a of the cover plate 11 is smaller than the inner diameter of the annular wall 10a of the housing 10. The cover plate 11 is received in the housing 10 in a face to face relation so as to be rotatable independently from the actuating shaft 16 and the housing 10. The cover plate 11 is mounted through the ~~ring-like~~ ring-shaped cover 19 to the first side frame portion 2a of the seat back frame 2 by welding the protrusions 11d, 11e, 11f, 11g, 11h, 11i of the cover plate 11 to the first side frame portion 2a of the seat back frame 2.

Replace paragraph [0043] with the following paragraph:

[0043] Referring to Fig. 6, the cam 15 is formed into a substantially ~~plate-like form~~ plate-shape and comprises three radially protruding jaws 15a, 15b, 15c for pushing the locking gears 12, 13, 14, each of the protruding jaws 15a, 15b, 15c having a curved surface, a substantially triangular boss portion 15e, and a through-hole 15d formed in the triangular boss portion 15e for receiving the actuating shaft 16. As described above, the cam 15 is mounted to the actuating shaft 16 for rotation therewith.

Replace paragraph [0044] with the following paragraph:

[0044] Referring to Fig. 7, the guide plate 18 is formed into a substantially circular

~~plate-like form~~ plate-shape and has a diameter smaller than an inner diameter of the annular wall 11a of the cover plate 11. The guide plate 18 has a substantially triangular through-hole 18a formed in a central portion thereof for receiving the boss portion 15e of the cam 15, and spaced apart elongated guide holes 18b, 18c, 18d for receiving the induction pins 12c, 13c, 14c of the locking gears 12, 13, 14. Each of the elongated guide holes 18b-18d is formed in a region of the guide plate 18 which is adjacent a periphery of the guide plate 18. The guide plate 18 is mounted to the cam 15 for rotation therewith, by causing the substantially triangular boss portion 15e of the cam 15 to be fitted in the substantially triangular through-hole 18a of the guide plate 18.

Replace paragraph [0045] with the following paragraph:

[0045] Again referring to Fig. 3, the actuating shaft 16 of the cam 15 comprises a round ~~bar-like~~ bar-shaped body which has a first end portion 16a and a second grooved end portion 16b. The actuating shaft 16 extends through the through-hole 10k of the housing 10, the through-hole 11c of the cover plate 11, and the ~~ring-like~~ ring-shaped cover 19. The first end portion 16a of the actuating shaft 16 penetrates the first side frame portion 2a (Fig. 1) of the seat back frame 2 and is rigidly or fixedly fitted in the first end portion 4a of the supporting shaft 4 for rotation therewith. The second end portion 16b of the actuating shaft 16 penetrates the first side bracket 3a of the seat cushion frame. The operating lever 5 is mounted to the second grooved end portion 16b of the actuating shaft 16 which projects from the first side bracket 3a of the seat cushion frame, by causing the second grooved end portion 16b of the actuating shaft 16 to be fitted in a grooved hole 5a of the operating lever 5 which is formed in a base portion of the operating lever 5.

Replace paragraph [0052] with the following paragraph:

[0052] The ~~ring-like~~ ring-shaped cover 19 is mounted on an outside of the housing 10 so as to allow the cover plate 11 to be rotatable independently from the housing 10.

Replace paragraph [0054] with the following paragraph:

[0054] The second locking means 1' comprises a substantially ~~disk-like~~ disk-shaped housing 10, a substantially ~~disk-like~~ disk-shaped cover plate 11, three locking gears 12,

13, 14, the actuating shaft 16', a cam 15 for causing the locking gears 12, 13, 14 to be displaced, the cam 15 being mounted to the actuating shaft 16' for rotation therewith, three spiral springs 17a, 17b, 17c, a guide plate 18 for inducting the locking gears 12, 13, 14, and a ~~ring-like~~ ring-shaped cover 19 for causing the housing 10 and the cover plate 11 to be combined with each other. In the second locking means 1', the components of the locking means 1' are arranged in an order reverse to the arranging order of the components of the first locking means 1 which is illustrated in Fig. 3.

Replace paragraph [0056] with the following paragraph:

[0056] Again referring to Fig. 10 and referring to Fig. 11, the actuating shaft 16' of the second locking means 1' comprises a round ~~bar-like~~ bar-shaped body which has a small diameter portion 16a', a large diameter portion 16b', and a pair of flange portions 160, 161 protruding radially from an axial portion 162 of the small diameter portion 16a' so as to protrude in the direction opposite to each other and extending along the axial portion 162 of the small diameter portion 16a'. The large diameter portion 16b' of the actuating shaft 16' penetrates a through-hole 10k of the housing 10 and the second side bracket 3b (Fig. 1) of the seat cushion frame to which the housing 10 is mounted by welding. The small diameter portion 16a' of the actuating shaft 16' penetrates a through-hole 15d of the cam 15, a through-hole 11c of the cover plate 11, the ~~ring-like~~ ring-shaped cover 19 and the second side frame portion 2b of the seat back frame 2 (Fig. 1) to which the cover plate 11 is mounted through the ~~ring-like~~ ring-shaped cover 19 by welding, and is rotatably connected to the second end portion 4b of the supporting shaft 4.

Replace paragraph [0068] with the following paragraph:

[0068] Referring to Fig. 16, there is illustrated another conventional locking means which may be employed in the seat according to the present invention. In the illustrated example, only one locking gear 52 is employed. The locking means is disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,103,970. The locking means includes a housing 50, a cover plate 51 having inwardly extending locking teeth 51a, a ~~plate-like~~ plate-shaped locking gear 52 having a first end 52a and a second toothed end 52b that is cooperable with the locking teeth 51a of the cover plate 51 to selectively prevent pivotal movement between the seat cushion and seat back, an actuating cam 53 received within an opening 52c of the locking gear 52 for moving the locking gear 52, an

actuating shaft 16 (16') supporting the actuating cam 53, a first pair of spaced apart guides 54 slidably supporting the first gear end 52a, and a second pair of spaced apart guides 55 slidably supporting the second toothed gear end 52b for movement toward and away from the locking teeth 51a of the cover plate 51.